
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Storms and Flooding Present
Numerous Public Health Concerns**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department is reminding everyone to be prepared in case storms or flooding impact you and your family. Just as you have a fire escape plan in your home, you should have a plan for dealing with storms.

“Think of creating a plan based on your typical day,” said Adam London, acting Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. “If Mom and Dad work across town from each other, kids are in school, and roads home are closed due to debris, what would you do to reunite after a storm? It’s helpful to review how to react to different situations.” Consider several meeting places, in different directions, where you would meet. Determine one person everyone in your family will contact by phone, text or e-mail in the event of an emergency. It would be helpful to select someone who lives out of town, as that person may have better lines of communication if the phones in your town don’t work.

- Do not attempt to drive through roadways covered in water – the road could be washed out or swept away by strong current.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may contain debris, gasoline or raw sewage.
- If floodwaters get into your home, clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- If you see a downed power line, do not approach it, call 911.
- Damaged sewer systems can create serious health hazards. Service any damage to septic systems as soon as possible.

You should prepare to have enough food and water to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer. Consider storing one gallon of water per person per day – this should be enough for drinking and sanitation. Three days of non-perishable food items (canned goods, protein bars, and dried fruit) should also be stored.

Being prepared makes it easier to cope with disaster. **GET READY! Kent County** is a preparedness program created by the Kent County Health Department, Kent County Emergency Management and the American Red Cross. It focuses on different areas of preparedness each month. Learn more about being ready for an emergency by checking out the website, www.accesskent.com/getready for informational fact sheets and more.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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